



# WILLIAMSBURG COUNTY CLERK OF COURT

## *Newsletter*

**Message from**

**Honorable Sharon W. Staggers, Clerk of Court**

*Dear Citizens,*

*It is with great pleasure that I present our 3rd Annual Clerk of Court newsletter. My staff and I are continuing to work diligently to improve our services and our commitment to serving you with excellence. This year we have continued to explore different ways to improve our services to our constituents. We have done this by offering online register of deeds records, continuing to offer our expungement summits, continuing to work closely with SCDSS and with court administration.*

*I have done several speaking engagements throughout the year to include: KSH 21st Century, AARP, the Rotary Club, Youth Leadership presented by Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Hemingway Career and Technology Center and Kingstree Middle/Magnet School. This past year I continued to attend conferences and classes. I graduated from the Institute of Government for County Officials on August 4, 2015. I continue to serve on the SC Department of Social Services Integrated Child Support Services Division Committee, as a board member for Vital Aging and a member of the Professional Women's Organization.*

*This coming year we will continue to explore new avenues to improve our services to you. Please read on to see what will be new in 2016. Once again, I thank you for allowing me to serve you. It is indeed my pleasure.*

*Sharon W. Staggers*



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## MISSION

**TO PROVIDE THE CITIZENS OF  
WILLIAMSBURG COUNTY WITH  
PROFESSIONAL, EFFECTIVE, EFFICIENT  
WORLD-CLASS SERVICE FROM EMPLOYEES  
THAT EXEMPLIFY A HIGH STANDARD OF  
INTEGRITY AND PROFESSIONALISM. TO  
MAINTAIN ACCURATE AND EASILY  
ACCESSIBLE COURT AND REAL ESTATE  
RECORDS FOR THE PUBLIC.**



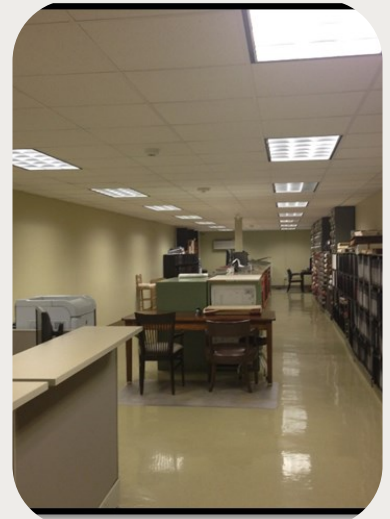




*Williamsburg County Council and Clerk of Court*

# REGISTER OF DEEDS DIVISION

*Our Register of Deeds office now offers online records. Online records offer you the ease of accessing information from your home, library or anywhere that has internet access. You are able to search most documents that have been recorded in our office for the search range of 1/3/1994 through the current date. If you need a document outside of this date range, or need a certified copy of a document, you will need to contact our office for further assistance. You will only be able to view the tax liens index and will not be able to view the actual liens or print same on-line. Please contact our office for information as to tax liens. The website is [www.sclandrecords.com](http://www.sclandrecords.com)*



# GENERAL SESSIONS DIVISION



*By order of the Administrative Judge, beginning on January 1, 2016 in the Court of General Sessions for the Third Judicial Circuit on each Monday of the court term from 9 am to 10 am a second appearance docket will be sounded by the Solicitor's office and the presiding Circuit Court judge will enter on the record a defendant's acceptance of a date and time for a plea of guilty or entry of a scheduled date for the trial of the matter. All summoned defendants and their lawyers will appear before the court on the date of the second appearance docket. Failure to appear may result in the court issuing a bench warrant against the defendant.*

*General Sessions' court will still remain a one week term of court during 2016.*

*632 new General Sessions' cases have been filed during the year of 2015.*



# FAMILY COURT DIVISION

*The Family Court division is still working to disburse thousands of dollars in unclaimed funds. It is important that you continue to help us to help you by keeping your information current. Please continue to check our website to see if you may have unclaimed funds.*



*During the month of October 2015, South Carolina experienced one of the most disastrous floods in 1000 years. The damage from this flood caused our offices not to be open and operating for an entire week. However, due to my accountability to the citizens that I serve, I was in the office. During that week, some staff and I who could get out of our homes, we worked to provide assistance to our family court clients. We were able to make sure that your checks and direct deposits were still sent out. However, for those who lived in flooded out areas, I know that this may not have been of any assistance to you. However, due to unforeseen natural disasters such as the flood, is why I continually encourage you to Sign up for Direct Deposit! Even in these types of events, if the banks are open and we can get to our offices, your child support or alimony payments can still be deposited directly into your bank accounts. It's still a very simple process of filling out the direct deposit form, submitting a photo I.D. and a voided check. Help us to help you!*

*The South Carolina Department of Social Services is now offering to convert your case to one under their Child Support Services Division (CSSD). Please see the following for more detailed information.*

*Family Court has recorded approximately 408 new cases in 2015.*

# NEED HELP COLLECTING YOUR CHILD SUPPORT?

If you have an existing child support order in South Carolina that is not managed by South Carolina Department of Social Services, Child Support Services Division (CSSD), you may apply to open a case with CSSD.



Child support services offered by CSSD include:

- Federal and State tax refund offset
- Unemployment benefits offset
- Lottery winnings offset
- License revocation
- Liens on bank accounts and insurance payouts
- Interstate enforcement assistance
- Passport denial
- Review for modification if order is over 3 years old or if there has been a substantial change since it was issued
- Non-Custodial Parent employment

If you are interested in applying for services, you may obtain an application from your county Family Court, online at CSSD's website, or by calling CSSD Customer Service toll-free at 800-768-5858. There is no charge for filing an application. However, if you have never received public assistance (AFDC, TANF, FI), CSSD is required to charge a \$25 fee each federal fiscal year once \$500 in child support has been collected and disbursed. There may also be other small fees for collections, depending on the collection source (for example, from state and federal tax refund offset).

SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

CHILD SUPPORT SERVICES DIVISION

PO BOX 1469

Columbia, SC 29202-1469

Toll-Free: 800-468-5858

# COMMON PLEAS DIVISION

*Williamsburg County Clerk of Court has been selected as one of the pilot counties for E-Filing. We are so excited. Common Pleas is going to mandatory E-Filing beginning February 8, 2016. All common pleas cases must be electronically filed, with few exceptions. Please see the information below.*



E-Filing for South Carolina Attorneys

## Benefits of E-Filing

- Documents filed anytime, 24/7
- Reduced paper handling and the associated printing and mailing costs
- Easy to use
- Requires fewer resources and saves time
- Filing status may be checked online

## E-Filing Portal - Learning to E-File

### 1 Review the Training Videos

15 short training videos produced in partnership with SCETV provide an excellent opportunity for attorneys to learn how to register for and use E-Filing.

### 2 Check out the Attorney Reference Guides

Printer-friendly, step-by-step instructions designed to be used hand-in-hand with the training videos.

### 3 Online Training Classes - Webinars

Enroll in one of our online training classes called webinars to see the system in action. Attorneys who register and attend a webinar are eligible to receive a one-hour CLE free of charge.

### 4 Frequently Asked Questions

Frequently asked questions, grouped by category, provide answers to the questions attorneys need answers to. The list of questions will be updated regularly.

### 5 E-Filing Policies & Guidelines

The policies and guidelines explain how the Rules of Civil Procedure apply in cases that are electronically filed.

## E-Filing Timeline

Nov. 2	E-Filing Portal Go LIVE Register for E-Filing in AIS
Nov. 20	First Online Training Class
Dec. 9	GO LIVE - Clarendon
Jan. 19	GO LIVE - Sumter
Jan. 19	GO LIVE - Lee
Feb. 8	GO LIVE - Williamsburg



[www.sccourts.org/efiling](http://www.sccourts.org/efiling)

*During the year of 2015 we have recorded 615 new Common Pleas cases. The Honorable Judge Jeffrey Young will be the Chief Administrative Judge for Common Pleas beginning January 2016.*

# Court Trivia

1. In the Supreme Court case of Mapp vs. Ohio, the Court ruled that

- A. Police acting in good faith, with a legal warrant, may present evidence in court
- B. The due process clause of the Fourteenth Amendment applies to illegal searches
- C. Searches of criminal suspects are constitutional
- D. Evidence may be used in court if the evidence would have been inevitably discovered
- E. The exclusionary rule does not apply to cases tried in state courts

2. If the United States government were to be sued, to which court(s) would those seeking damages take their case to be heard?

- A. US District Courts
- B. US Supreme Courts
- C. US Court of Appeals
- D. US Tax Court
- E. US Court of Claims

3. A constitutional duty of the vice president is to

- A. Work with the Supreme Court on constitutional issues
- B. Presides over the Senate and break tie votes
- C. Balance the ticket
- D. Preside over the House of Representatives and break tie votes
- E. Issue directives, on the President's order, to political parties

4. The United States Constitution has been amended

- A. 27 times
- B. 26 times
- C. 17 times
- D. Originally only ten times including the Bill of Rights
- E. 28 times



**5. The first woman appointed to the Supreme Court of the United States was**

- A. Sandra Day O'Connor**
- B. Ruth Bader Ginsburg**
- C. Barbara Jordan**
- D. Jeannette Rankin**
- E. Geraldine Ferraro**

**6. Regulating securities, financial markets, and investment companies, and prohibiting fraud and dishonest investment practices would be the major functions of which of the following independent regulatory agencies?**

- A. The Federal Reserve**
- B. Federal Trade Commission**
- C. Securities and Exchange Commission**

**7. Which of the following would be a true statement if a presidential election had to be decided by the House of Representatives?**

- A. Each member of the House is allowed one vote.**
- B. Each state's delegation cast one vote.**
- C. The House Rules Committee makes the decision.**

**8. In order for a case to be heard in the Supreme Court of the United States, a consensus must be reached among the justices. This agreement is known as:**

- A. A writ of certiorari**
- B. A precedent**
- C. "the rule of four"**
- D. A certificate**

# BACK-TO-SCHOOL SUPPLY GIVEAWAY

In The Know !

## *Back-to-School Unity Bash*

*This year's 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Back-to-School supply giveaway was entitled Williamsburg County Government & Community Businesses Back-to-School Unity Bash and was held on July 25, 2015. A total of 16 students won cash or gift cards from various individuals or business owners to include: Martha Scott (Carolina Travel & Tours); John Nowlin (J & M Trucking); Alba Pearson (Abla's Hair Studio); Edna Nesmith (The Hair Gallery); Shawn Johnson (Finese Beauty & Barbershop); Jesse Parker (Williamsburg County Maintenance Department & Staff); and Sharon W. Staggers, Clerk of Court. A special thank you is extended to the following departments and businesses for their participation: The Honorable Betty F. Matthews, Probate Judge; The Honorable Sally Mouzon, Auditor; Carletta Isreal, First Steps Director; Connie Dozier, Connie's Bakery; Rev. Michael Burgess, Williamsburg County Transit; Diane Davis, Hope Health; Santee Electric; Tan Epps, Jus Kuttin Up Beauty Salon; Jenkinson, Jarrett & Kellahan Law Firm; Williamsburg County Department of Juvenile Justice; County Council and the Supervisor's Office; McDonald's, Hardee's and Sonic of Kingstree. The event was filled with fun, food, plenty of school supplies and free health screenings. The Back-to-School Unity Bash was truly a success. I look forward to serving our children again in 2016.*







Williamsburg County Transit



First Steps



Hope Health



Connie's Bakery



Jus Kuttin Up Hair Salon









*The Honorable Sharon W. Staggers, Clerk of Court and Karla Darby of Carolina Travel & Tours presented students with gift cards won from the 3rd Annual Williamsburg County Government & Community Businesses Back-to-School Unity Bash held on July 25, 2015.*



## *Green Thumb Garden Club*



*The Green Thumb Garden Club planted its annual tree in the Veteran's Memorial Garden on December 2, 2015.*



# *Farewell*



*The Honorable Chief Justice Jean Hoefer Toal bids farewell after a long and distinguished career on the Supreme Court bench.*

# *Presentations*



*Kingstree Senior High 21<sup>st</sup> Century students and I after a presentation on courtroom etiquette and procedures.*





*Kingstree Senior High School's 21<sup>st</sup> Century students and their directors Ms. Dennis and Ms. Scott visited a General Sessions term of court in June. The students were very intrigued by the court process. The Honorable Judge Clifton Newman extended an invitation for the students to ask questions. I encourage all schools ranging from 6<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grades to allow your students the opportunity to visit a general sessions' term of court.*





*On December 11, 2015 my office presented a slide show presentation at the Career Fair held at the Kingstree Senior High School. We gave out handouts, pens and other vital information to the students about the Clerk of Court's office and Register of Deeds.*

*Pictured is the Clerk of Court and Cherelle Wilson (Family Court Bookkeeper).*

## *Expungement Summit Plus 2015*



*On June 27, 2015, the Honorable Sharon W. Staggers, Clerk of Court for Williamsburg County, and staff in partnership with South Carolina Legal Services & Equal Justice Works hosted Expungement Summit PLUS 2015. The presenter for the occasion was Attorney Lonnie Doles from South Carolina Legal Services. Mr. Doles covered topics on criminal record issues (expungements, pardons, bonding), licensing issues (identification, drivers, and professional), and child support (defending contempt and rule to show cause, modification of child support). **The more you know the more you can grow.***



## *Giving Back To Our Seniors*



*On Monday, December 21, 2015 my daughter, Valencía and I, visited the three Vital Aging centers. We gave gift bags to each senior from our family.*





## Graduation



*On August 4, 2015 I graduated from Level I of the Institute of Government for County Officials at the 48<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the South Carolina Association of Counties.*



# *Internships*

*Offering 6-six weeks summer internships for the summer of 2016.*

*Internship dates: June 20, 2016 through July 29, 2016*

*Requirements:*

*Must be a high school junior or senior age 16-18*

*Three page essay on your future career goals and how this internship would help you.*

*Three teacher references*

*Transcript*

*Deadline for submission: April 29, 2016*

*Please use our direct email, [clerkofcourt@wc.sc.gov](mailto:clerkofcourt@wc.sc.gov), to send your questions, ideas and suggestions for future articles.*

**"I have learned that success is to be measured not so much by the position that one has reached in life as by the obstacles which he has had to overcome while trying to succeed."**

**Booker T. Washington**

## **ANSWER KEY**

- 1. C. Searches of criminal suspects are constitutional**
- 2. E. US Court of Claims**
- 3. B. Presides over the Senate and break tie votes**
- 4. A. 27 times**
- 5. A. Sandra Day O'Connor**
- 6. C. Securities and Exchange Commission**
- 7. B. Each state's delegation cast one vote.**
- 8. C. "the rule of four"**

**\*NOT PRODUCED AT TAX PAYER'S EXPENSE\***

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(843) 355-9321**

